



THIS BROCHURE ANSWERS SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S SMOG CHECK PROGRAM.

Q *What are the environmental benefits of the Smog Check Program?*

A The Smog Check Program has greatly reduced air pollution created by millions of cars in California. According to the California Air Resources Board, the program removes about 400 tons of smog-forming pollutants from California's air every day.

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Bureau of Automotive Repair

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS



www.smogcheck.ca.gov

SOME THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

Smog Check

>>> *in California*



Q Is my vehicle required to get a Smog Check?

A Your vehicle needs a Smog Check if it is more than six model years old and the model year is 1976 or newer. *(This does not include diesel vehicles, motorcycles, electric and hybrid vehicles, and two-cylinder engine vehicles.)*

Q How often does my vehicle have to be tested?

A Your vehicle must be tested every other year. A Smog Check is also required if you sell your vehicle and it is more than four model years old. Some vehicles may require a Smog Check at a Test-Only or Gold Shield station.

Q What is a Test-Only station?

A Test-Only stations are licensed Smog Check stations that are only allowed to test cars. State law prohibits them from making repairs. To find a Test-Only station near you, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call (800)952-5210.

Q What is a Gold Shield station?

A Gold Shield stations are licensed Smog Check stations that meet certain performance criteria in order to test and repair all cars. They also provide repairs on vehicles that qualify for financial assistance under the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP). To find a Gold Shield station near you, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call (800)952-5210.

Q How will I know if I need to take my car to a Test-Only or Gold Shield station?

A You will be notified on the registration renewal notice sent by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) if your vehicle must be inspected at a Test-Only or Gold Shield station.

Q How much does a Smog Check cost?

A Smog Check prices vary in different areas. Prices for Smog Checks are not regulated, so you are encouraged to shop around. For a list of stations in your area, visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call (800)952-5210.

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Q How can I help my vehicle pass a Smog Check?

A Performing proper and regular vehicle maintenance according to your owner's manual, and not tampering with the emissions control equipment are keys to passing Smog Check.

Q What happens if my vehicle fails a Smog Check?

A In order to complete your registration, you will need to obtain the repairs necessary for it to pass its Smog Check retest. Before beginning repairs, find out if you are eligible for our Consumer Assistance Program (CAP).

Q What is CAP and how do I qualify?

A The Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) provides financial assistance to repair or retire a vehicle that fails a Smog Check.

Repair Assistance — If your DMV renewal notice requires a Smog Check at a Test-Only or Gold Shield station, you may qualify for up to \$500 in repair assistance once you pay the first \$100 in repair costs. You may also qualify if your income is within certain levels, regardless of where you got your Smog Check. If you qualify based on income, a \$20 co-pay is all that you need.

Vehicle Retirement — If you feel your car is not worth repairing, the State may buy the car from you for \$1,000 and have it scrapped at a local dismantler.

To get a CAP application visit www.smogcheck.ca.gov or call (800)952-5210.

